



# TOPSIDE



NOV 2004

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

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## TRAINING SCHEDULE

Diver candidates must submit the following forms to Laurie Barber by December 3rd, 2004 for the January Working Diver Class:

- NDP Training and Authorization Request form
- NOAA NDC Standardized Equipment Measurement form
- **Completed** NOAA Diving Physical package, (there are new forms for NOAA Corps officers and Wage Marine employees DD-2808, 2807-1)

Forms are available at the following web address: [www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html](http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html).

Fax or mail completed forms to NDC.

Course schedules through May 2005:

Jan 10 - Jan 28	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 24 - Jan 28	Divemaster	Key West
Apr 5 - Apr 8	Refresher (tentative)	Seattle
May 9 - May 27	Working Diver	Seattle
May 23 - May 27	Divemaster	Seattle

Please contact Laurie Barber at 206-526-6695 or via e-mail at

[laurie.barber@noaa.gov](mailto:laurie.barber@noaa.gov) with any questions.



## WINTER DIVE TIPS!

Your body can absorb and/or retain more nitrogen when performing cold (any time a diver is cold, regardless of water temp) or arduous (strenuous) dives making you more susceptible to DCS. Therefore, when using diving tables, it's recommended that you build in a safety factor that avoids pushing the limits of the table used. This "cushion" can be created by using the next longer bottom time, or a longer surface interval. Whatever method is used, the diver should avoid the maximum no decompression time for the depth dived.



## T.R.I. TEST KITS

T.R.I. Test kits will be mailed the week of 24 January 2005. If ships are not going to be in port during that time, or other circumstances would prevent your ship or unit from conducting the test during that time, let Laurie Barber know and the kit can be mailed at a more convenient time.



## CONTAMINATED WATER

On 17-18 November, the NOAA Diving Center hosted a workshop on contaminated water diving. The event was open to divers from all federal, state, and local government agencies. Seventy-five people attended the workshop.

Day one included a lecture by Steve Barsky, author of the book "Diving in High-Risk Environments," covering a wide variety of topics related to diving in contaminated water, including hazards in polluted water diving and hull searches, equipment selection, diving techniques, and decontamination procedures. The program discussed the risks associated with contaminated water diving and what steps can be taken to help protect divers and topside support personnel involved in such diving activities.

Day two was a series of directed discussions and group participation exercises designed to address some of the information presented the previous day and to help develop a list of issues, both operationally and technologically, needing further investigation. This was aimed at improving the health and safety of those government employees required to work underwater in potentially contaminated conditions. Results from the workshop are posted on the NDC website at [www.ndc.noaa.gov](http://www.ndc.noaa.gov).



OAR LODO Jules Craynock leads one of the focus groups on day two of the Contaminated water workshop.

## AUTHORIZATION NOTICES

Earlier this year NDC implemented an automatic system that queries the online dive database on a monthly basis and sends out "Not authorized to Dive" letters to those divers it sees as not meeting the regulations.

There are four different letters that a diver may see;

- Not Authorized due to lapsed dive proficiency (>6 WKS - <6 MOS)
- Not Authorized due to lapsed dive proficiency (>6 MOS - <12 MOS )
- Not Authorized due to lapsed dive proficiency (>12 MOS )
- Not Authorized due to lapsed dive Physical

Our Database has been having some problems in pulling the correct information and the problem is being resolved. Some of you have received messages that were not correct so please bear with us as we repair this issue.

If you receive one of these letters, verify that your profile in the online divelog supports the information. If there is a discrepancy between the two, or if your profile is not correct, please let the NDC know immediately. If the letter is correct and you haven't logged a dive, or if your physical is out of date, please update the required information as soon as possible. If you have been diving, just log your dive and check your profile to see if you are reauthorized.

The six week letter is the most frequent one, as people are underway or in the field and cannot enter their dives. Please just log them as soon as you can and let us know if you won't be able to get in the water and we will be glad to work with you.

